

# IFE Rules of Membership



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS  
FOUNDED 1918 • INCORPORATED 1924

## 1. Titles and Grades

The IFE draws a distinction between titles and grades of membership. Titles are awarded to persons and organisations who have an interest in the objectives of the IFE, or to members who have made a considerable personal contribution to the IFE's objectives. The grades of membership form the framework for recognition of professional development.

## 2. Titles

The IFE awards the following titles:

- a. The title of Affiliate is available for organisations, or individuals with an interest in fire engineering who have not, at this stage, met the requirements of a membership grade.
- b. The Companion title is a premier title that can only be made by a nomination. It is a title that is awarded to members of any grade who have given outstanding service to the IFE and/or to an IFE branch and/or to the profession of fire engineering. Members that have been awarded the Companion title retain their original IFE grade. For example, a Companion Graduate member may use the post nominal letters CGIFireE.

Title	Post Nominal Letters
Affiliate Individual	N/A
Affiliate Organisation	N/A
Companion	'C' added to start of IFE post nominals (e.g. CGIFireE)

## 3. Grades

The grades are prescribed in the IFE's Schedule of By-Laws and provide for both corporate and non-corporate membership. Only corporate grades receive voting rights. The IFE encourages all fire engineers to continually develop their membership status and to engage with IFE activities. Post nominal letters may only be used by current, fully paid-up members.

The IFE will take action in the event of unauthorised use of post nominal letters, including continued use despite non-payment of subscriptions.

- a. Corporate Grades

Grade	Post Nominal Letters
Associate	AIFireE
Member	MIFireE
Fellow	FIFireE
Life Fellow	FIFireE (Life)



b. Non-Corporate Grades

Grade	Post Nominal Letters
Student	None
Technician	TIFireE
Graduate	GIFireE

Candidates applying for membership grades, or to transfer between grades, will be expected to provide appropriate evidence of eligibility. There are general requirements for membership as well as specific requirements for each grade of membership.

#### 4. Requirements for Membership

- a. Adherence to the IFE's Code of Conduct policy ([www.ife.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Documents/IFE\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_updated\\_April\\_18.pdf](http://www.ife.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Documents/IFE_Code_of_Conduct_updated_April_18.pdf))
- b. Compliance with the principles of the IFE's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Guidance (<https://www.ife.org.uk/CPD>)

#### 5. Requirements for Entry to Specific Grades of Membership

- a. Student
  - (i) Currently following a programme of study (evidence must be provided)
  - (ii) Membership at Student grade is allowed for a maximum of five years, after which the individual will be required to apply to transfer to a different grade of IFE membership or to the title of Affiliate Individual
  - (iii) There is an option to join as a Full Time Education student member free of charge for those studying full time at a recognised Higher Education Institution for a fire engineering qualification or engineering related qualification. Contact [membership@ife.org.uk](mailto:membership@ife.org.uk) for further information. Evidence of study is required, such as a current academic year enrolment letter.
- b. Technician
  - (i) IFE Level 3 Certificate; **or**  
UK Statutory Sub Officer/Junior Officer 2 exams; **or**  
IFE EngTech registration (Engineering Council or international equivalent); **or**  
Recognised Educational Programme for Technician grade ([www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory](http://www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory)); **or**  
Equivalent (email: [membership@ife.org.uk](mailto:membership@ife.org.uk) )
  - (ii) At least 12 months of experience demonstrated by 25 hours of sufficient and relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
  - (iii) Indicative length of experience required is two years.



c. Graduate

- (i) IFE Level 3 Diploma; or  
NVQ Level 3 (fire-related); or  
UK Statutory Officer exams; or  
Recognised Educational Programme for Graduate grade  
([www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory](http://www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory)) ; or  
Equivalent (email: [membership@ife.org.uk](mailto:membership@ife.org.uk) )
- (ii) At least 12 months experience demonstrated by 25 hours of sufficient and relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- (iii) A minimum of 3 years of acceptable fire-related training and responsible experience.

d. Associate

- (i) Degree in a fire-related subject; **or**  
IFE Level 4 Certificate; **or**  
Recognised Educational Programme for Member grade  
([www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory](http://www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory)); **or**  
Equivalent (email: [membership@ife.org.uk](mailto:membership@ife.org.uk))

e. Member

- (i) Degree in a fire-related subject; **or**  
IFE Level 4 Certificate; **or**  
Recognised Educational Programme for Member grade  
([www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory](http://www.ife.org.uk/Training-Development-Directory)) ; **or**  
Equivalent (email: [membership@ife.org.uk](mailto:membership@ife.org.uk) )
- (ii) At least 2 years of sufficient and relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) covering 50 hours (25 hours per year) for the period immediately prior to the application
- (iii) IPD Requirements for Member ([www.ife.org.uk/Join/Member](http://www.ife.org.uk/Join/Member)), evidenced through a complete IPD report
- (iv) A minimum of 5 years of acceptable fire-related training and responsible experience.

f. Fellow

- (i) Current MIFireE membership of the IFE; **or**  
In exceptional circumstances only, individuals may be nominated through the Board of Directors
- (ii) Significant individual responsibility and exceptional contribution to the fire engineering profession over an extended period of time, not normally less than 15 years
- (iii) Two referees currently holding an IFE Fellow grade of membership

g. Life Fellow

Access to this grade is by invitation from the IFE's Board of Directors, who may elect as a Life Fellow a current Fellow member who has given outstanding service to the IFE for many years. The number of Life Fellows cannot **exceed six** at any one time.



## 6. Engineering Council Registration

The Engineering Council has five sections of registration:

- a. Chartered Engineer (CEng) [www.ife.org.uk/Join/Chartered-Engineer](http://www.ife.org.uk/Join/Chartered-Engineer)
- b. Interim Registrant for Chartered Engineer [www.ife.org.uk/Join/InterimCEng](http://www.ife.org.uk/Join/InterimCEng)
- c. Incorporated Engineer (IEng) [www.ife.org.uk/Join/IncorporatedEngineer](http://www.ife.org.uk/Join/IncorporatedEngineer)
- d. Interim Registrant for Incorporated Engineer [www.ife.org.uk/Join/InterimIEng](http://www.ife.org.uk/Join/InterimIEng)
- e. Engineering Technician (EngTech) [www.ife.org.uk/Join/EngineeringTechnician](http://www.ife.org.uk/Join/EngineeringTechnician)

Successful applicants for Engineering Council registration are automatically granted an appropriate grade of membership.

Engineering Council Section	IFE Membership Grade Automatically Granted	Post Nominal Letters
Chartered Engineer	Member	CEng MIFireE
Interim Registration for Chartered Engineer	Associate	AIFireE
Incorporated Engineer	Member	IEng MIFireE
Interim Registration for Incorporated Engineer	Associate	AIFireE
Engineering Technician	Technician	EngTech TIFireE

In the circumstance of a member already being in a higher-level IFE membership grade than the grade automatically conferred at time of registration, then the higher IFE grade remains in place. For example, should a Fellow member (FIFireE) successfully be registered as a Chartered Engineer (CEng), they would retain Fellow membership and be able to use the post nominal letters CEng FIFireE.

## 7. Subscriptions

- a. Annual membership subscriptions fall due on 1st January each year. A renewal notice is sent to all members each year.
- b. New members joining in the last three months of the calendar year are only required to pay for the subsequent year's subscription and effectively receive three months of membership in their year of joining free of charge.
- c. Non-payment of subscriptions results in the member being struck off the membership list and losing the privileges of membership, including the right to use the distinctive titles and post nominal letters. Members who wish to re-join may be charged an administrative fee.
- d. Subscription fees are set by the Board and are reviewed annually.



- e. Where a local branch exists outside the UK, annual subscriptions are payable to the local branch, which may retain fifty percent of the subscription to support local IFE activities. The remainder is remitted to the IFE's Headquarters to fund central membership expenses such as the International Fire Professional journal and administration.

## 8. Membership of IFE Branches

- a. The IFE has many local branches and groups established internationally, as well as Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- b. Membership of the IFE is not conditional on membership of any geographical branch, or any Special Interest Group
- c. Membership of an IFE branch, group or Special Interest Group is conditional on membership of the main body of the IFE
- d. In some cases, additional fees are payable to be a member of a local branch of the IFE. Such fees are usually minimal and lead to considerable benefits, such as access to CPD activities, professional networks, potential mentors and social activities

## 9. Code of Conduct

As laid down in the IFE's By-Laws, any member of the IFE may be suspended, asked to resign, or struck off the membership roll if, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the member is guilty of dishonourable or unprofessional conduct. Please refer to the IFE's Code of Conduct:

[www.ife.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Documents/IFE Code of Conduct updated April 18.pdf](http://www.ife.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Documents/IFE_Code_of_Conduct_updated_April_18.pdf)